Radical protesters a threat: [1* Edition]

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ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

No sensible person denies that reforms are necessary to preserve the environment. Ecological moderates would do well to distance themselves from the highly politicized, apocalyptic wing of the environmental movement, whose anti-industrial, anti-capitalist, anti-nuclear and anti-intellectual stances are part of the problem, not the solution.

FULL TEXT

THE Sun's Glenn Bohn reports that Earth First! appears to be involved in the Walbran Valley environmental protests (Walbran Activists Deny Link to Radical Environmental Group, Sept. 21).

The organization is notorious for its practices of violence, vandalism and sabotage against the forest and nuclear industries. Founder Dave Foreman resigned some 10 months ago, accusing the group of moving away from environmental issues and toward leftist political causes. Environmental leaders, he charged, are "more concerned with the wildness within than the wildness out in the forests."

About the same time, Jacques Cousteau was warning that "the ecology movement is being poisoned by becoming part of politics." Ecologists, he insists, should remain out of direct politics and strive to "inspire them from the outside."

No sensible person denies that reforms are necessary to preserve the environment. Ecological moderates would do well to distance themselves from the highly politicized, apocalyptic wing of the environmental movement, whose anti-industrial, anti-capitalist, anti-nuclear and anti-intellectual stances are part of the problem, not the solution. More importantly, associating with barbaric environmental fascists like Earth First! will completely delegitimize the entire movement in the eyes of the public.

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